

Libya says it will keep Chad truce

LUSAKA (R) — Libya told the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Friday it was willing to maintain a ceasefire with Chad while African leaders pursue their peace efforts. The OAU arranged a truce last September, halting a war over the disputed Aouzou Strip, but its mediation is running behind schedule. A meeting of lawyers and cartographers to study the rival claims to Aouzou has been put off because some did not arrive in Libreville, Gabon, for the planned start on Thursday. Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda told reporters on Friday that the OAU's top committee on the conflict, composed of six African presidents, would not be able to meet this month because time was still needed to translate documents. "By next month we should be ready," said Mr. Kaunda, the OAU chairman. "I continue to pray that they hold the ceasefire." Libya's Deputy Foreign Minister Said Hafayana was in Lusaka Friday to deliver a message to Mr. Kaunda.

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Algerian president to visit Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid will visit Tunis on Sunday for his first talks with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali since Mr. Ben Ali took power two months ago, diplomatic sources said on Friday. Mr. Benjedid's visit follows Algerian mediation which helped Tunisia and Libya to reestablish relations last month after a two-year break. His trip is one of a series of visits and diplomatic contacts in North Africa which have underlined the shifting alliances in the region. Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania are linked by a 1983 treaty of fraternity and concord which Libya and Morocco have been invited to join. Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi in turn proposed a union of states with Algeria last year. An obstacle to Morocco joining any pact involving Algeria has been the 12-year-old Western Sahara war, in which Algiers supports Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for control of the territory. Apart from a flurry of contacts leading to the renewal of Tunisian-Libyan ties, Algeria and Morocco held high-level talks last month aimed at improving relations.

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Hamzeh returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh and an official delegation accompanying him Friday returned home from Thailand after attending a meeting on means of achieving the World Health Organisation's goal of health for all by the year 2000.

Brutents in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — A senior Soviet official arrived in Abu Dhabi Friday to brief the UAE officials on last month's summit between the U.S. and Soviet leaders, the official Emirates News Agency, WAM said. It said Kareen Brutents, deputy director of International Affairs at the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, had also visited Syria, Egypt and Kuwait.

Iranian exile flies to Nepal

DUBAI (R) — One of a group of eight Iranians desperately seeking a permanent home after fleeing their country five years ago has left Dubai for Nepal, a United Nations official said on Friday. The eight were forcibly deported from Yugoslavia last week and seven are still in Dubai, waiting for a country to accept them. Abdulrazak Essaid, the U.N. high commissioner for refugees in the Middle East, said one man from the group went to Nepal on Thursday. There was no explanation why he left. Mr. Essaid said four others, including a woman seven months pregnant and a four-year-old boy, would probably be given official U.N. refugee status soon.

Israeli Labour leader resigns

TEL AVIV (R) — The secretary general of Israel's Labour Party has stunned colleagues by announcing he will resign for unspecified political and personal reasons. Uri Baran, 50, told reporters he did not believe his resignation, announced at a Labour Party meeting on Thursday, hinted at a rift inside the party he has served for three years as secretary general. Peres said he hoped to persuade Baran to change his mind when they meet to discuss the resignation on Saturday.

Libya says U.S. jet buzzed its ship

BEIRUT (R) — Libya charged on Friday that an American warplane staged low-level reconnaissance flights over one of its passenger ships off the Egyptian coast. The official Libyan News Agency JANA, monitored in Beirut, said the plane on Thursday flew over the ship Amata about 115 miles north of the Egyptian coast at Sidi Barrani. The agency said the Amata was heading for Izmir, Turkey, on normal business. "The American warplane, which had taken off from one of the U.S. military bases in Egypt, staged three low-level reconnaissance flights over it," JANA quoted sources at the Ministry of Maritime Transport as saying. "This action is against the international laws of navigation and the Ministry of Maritime Transport has informed all the necessary parties of this provocative act which threatened the lives of the Libyan passengers on the ship," it added.

Rifai, Masri meet U.S. senator today

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — U.S. Senator John Chafee is scheduled to hold talks Saturday with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and other Jordanian officials, a U.S. embassy spokesman said Friday.

Mr. Chafee, who later leaves for Saudi Arabia, was Thursday received by His Majesty King Hussein and was told that violence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza were the natural result of Israeli occupation.

The senator agreed that the uprising in the occupied territories were a political problem that requires a political solution rather than the use of force.

During his meeting with Mr. Chafee, the King said "the uprising in the occupied Arab territories against the tyranny of Israeli occupation is the natural result of the continued occupation," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King said that a U.N.-sponsored international conference was the only means for a just Middle East peace. He said urgent efforts were needed to "find a just settlement to alleviate the suffering and despair of the people under occupation and to guarantee their legitimate rights."

Petra said the King also discussed with Mr. Chafee the Iran-Iraq war.

The Rhode Island Republican said in an interview with the Associated Press that his 90-minute talks with the King "focused on the wave of violence in the occupied territories, the Gulf war, the economic situation in Jordan and its overall relations with the United States."

Mr. Chafee, a member of the U.S. Senate's committees of environment, public works and finance, is on a regional familiarisation tour which took him to Egypt and Israel as well as the

(Continued on page 3)

Bassiouni: Egypt could sever ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohamed Bassiouni, was quoted on Friday as saying Cairo could break off relations with the Jewish state if the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip deteriorated.

The Nazareth-based Arab-language weekly Al Sinaara quoted Mr. Bassiouni as saying in an interview: "There exists the possibility of a break in relations, a recall of the ambassador or a reduction in the embassy staff. However this is not our objective."

"Our major objective is to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem," he said.

The future of ties between Israel and Egypt "depend on the development of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, negative or positive," Mr. Bassiouni was quoted as saying.

Egypt, the only Arab state to sign a treaty with Israel, has protested repeatedly at the use of force against Palestinian demonstrations in the occupied territories.

Referring to Israeli plans to expel nine Palestinians from the

occupied territories, Mr. Bassiouni said: "Egypt does not live in isolation from the events and therefore it has informed Israel of the dangers of deportations which are obstacles and threaten the bridges of confidence."

"Egypt considers Israeli actions to be violations of international law and human rights and Israel's announcement to deport Palestinians has escalated the situation rather than calming it down," he said.

Egypt sent an ambassador to Tel Aviv under the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian treaty establishing full diplomatic relations. However he was withdrawn in 1982 after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, amid international condemnation of Israel.

An ambassador was only reappointed in September 1986 following an Alexandria summit meeting at which Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and then-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres agreed to arbitration on their disputed border at Tabaa.

Mr. Bassiouni, who had been charge d'affaires, was promoted to ambassador then.

Howe backs Mellor's criticism of Israel

LONDON (Agencies) — Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on Friday supported criticism by a deputy, David Mellor, of Israel and said they reflected "exactly what we've been saying, sadly, for a long time."

Mr. Howe, in a radio interview, also said the refusal by the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, to meet a visiting U.N. representative, while the foreign minister, Shimon Peres, was agreeable, illustrated "the problems arising from the divisions in Israel."

Mr. Howe's comments were his first on Israel since Mr. Mellor, a Foreign Office minister with responsibilities for the Mideast, returned from a visit there and the occupied territories this week.

During the visit, Mr. Mellor denounced as an "affront to civilisation" conditions in a Palestinian refugee camp in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, and rebuked an Israeli colonel in front of television cameras.

"David Mellor was saying exactly what we've been saying, sadly, for a long time — that the continued occupation by Israelis of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the way in which it is being managed was bound to have a brutalising influence," said Mr. Howe.

"We've been trying to press both sides to recognise... that 'terrorism' won't make headway

from the Palestinian point of view, that tyranny won't make headway from the Israeli point of view."

Masri praises Mellor

In Amman, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri praised Mr. Mellor for his blunt criticism of Israel's policy towards the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Israel's ugly practices were revealed to the whole world... during the visit (of Mr. Mellor) who saw for himself the repression and brutal actions," Mr. Masri told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"He had the courage and wisdom to condemn that at the top of his voice and add another nail to the coffin of Israeli lies about conditions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza."

Mr. Masri spoke after returning from a conference in Morocco at which Islamic ministers urged U.N. intervention to halt the Israeli actions against Palestinian protesters in the occupied territories.

He said the Islamic resolution was in line with Tuesday's unanimous U.N. Security Council vote urging Israel to rescind an order to deport nine Palestinians.

Mr. Masri also said Jordan would continue to provide support and assistance to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule

Israel discloses mass detentions without trial 3 more Arabs fall victim to Israelis

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Israeli occupation authorities Friday disclosed mass detentions of Palestinians detained without trial for up to six months and three more Arabs were shot dead by Israeli troops in anti-occupation protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.N. officials quoted by international news agencies identified two of the dead Palestinians as 15-year-old Mazen Zaki Mossalam and Maher Al Telbani, 20, and said they died in hospitals after being shot by Israeli soldiers during violent clashes in Mugazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip Thursday night.

The Palestine Press Service, an Arab-run agency based in Jerusalem, reported another Palestinian, identified as 22-year-old Khalid Awadeh, was killed in the Bureij camp south of Gaza City. It said four others were wounded in Khan Yunis.

An Arab reporter who demanded anonymity said four others were wounded after a clash with soldiers in Khan Yunis. He said worshippers left a mosque and began a silent march to the downtown area. Soldiers arrived to break up the demonstration, using tear-gas and then live ammunition, he said.

Continuing protests were reported Friday in many other areas of the Gaza Strip and in Arab Jerusalem with protesters burning tyres, stoning Israeli troops and cars and soldiers opening tear-gas fire at them. Hospital officials said at least 20 Palestinians were wounded, in Thursday night's protests.

The demonstrations took place in the Nuseirat and Mughazi refugee camps in the Gaza Strip Thursday night and involved hundreds of demonstrators. Amouna Ismail Saqer, 50, a resident of Nuseirat, said protests began about 5 p.m. with stone-throwing and tear-gas exchanges and lasted for six hours.

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Syrian envoys end Gulf mission amid reports of planned GCC-Iran talks

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Two senior Syrian envoys Friday ended a Gulf tour that Arab diplomats described as an effort to arrange talks between the Arab Gulf states and Iran on means to end the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war and the related attacks on shipping in the Gulf.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa left the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday after a final session of talks with Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed. Mr. Khaddam and Mr. Sharaa arrived in Kuwait Wednesday and visited Bahrain, Qatar and Oman before arriving in Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital, on Thursday.

The official Emirates news agency, WAM, reported after the first Syrian-UAE session on Thursday that Sheikh Hamdan expressed appreciation for the efforts Syria "is exerting to bring peace to the region."

Gulf-based Arab diplomatic sources quoted by the AP said Thursday that Syria had convinced Iran to delay a long-expected winter offensive against Iraq, although sources in Damascus said Iran has more than

500,000 men poised along the southern waterfront.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, meanwhile, had persuaded Iraq to halt its raids on Iranian tankers in the Gulf, said diplomatic sources in Damascus.

That would halt Iranian retaliation attacks focused against ships trading with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The blow-for-blow ship attacks climaxed last month, with 34 recorded raids against merchant ships by the two Gulf war foes. Some 450 vessels have been damaged or hit since the war started.

Kuwait last year reflagged 11 of its tankers in the United States, entitling them to naval protection.

Asked by reporters on arrival in Abu Dhabi if progress had been made, Mr. Sharaa said: "I think there is a positive atmosphere that creates optimism."

Mr. Khaddam carried a message from President Hafez Al Assad to UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan on current Gulf developments, WAM said.

He earlier delivered a similar message to Bahrain's emir,

(Continued on page 3)

U.S., Israel say ties unaffected by differences on violence

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States and Israel have reassured their friendship despite continuing differences over Israel's violent tactics against Palestinian activists in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At his first news conference since protests erupted in the occupied territories last month, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Thursday criticised Israel's use of "lethal force" to quell the protests and said violence would never bring peace to the Middle East.

But he went out of his way to play down the dispute with the key American ally, which intensified after Washington's unusual vote this week in favour of a United Nations Security Council resolution opposing Israeli plans to deport Palestinians accused of leading the protests (see page 4).

"I think it's important for everyone to understand that the United States regards its friendship and the strength of its

relationship with Israel as a key and unshakable relationship," he told reporters.

At least 28 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops since the protests began.

The Israeli ambassador to Washington, Moshe Arad, later met Mr. Shultz at the State Department to convey formally his government's regret and disappointment over the U.S. vote on the U.N. resolution but said Mr. Shultz's news conference had gone a long way toward abating tensions in the relationship.

At the news conference, Mr. Shultz outlined what he called a full and productive U.S. foreign policy agenda for 1988, the last year of Ronald Reagan's presidency.

He reaffirmed plans to hold monthly meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in advance of a fourth summit between Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow in May or June.

Iraqis hit Tabriz plant

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked and set ablaze an oil refinery in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz on Friday.

A high command communiqué said several Iraqi jets penetrated Iranian air defences and pounded the refinery at 12:40 p.m. (0940 GMT). The target was set ablaze and the aircraft returned safely, it said.

Iraq's air raids on Iran's oil installations are aimed at choking off the oil revenues needed by Tehran to finance the seven-year-old war. The Tabriz refinery was last hit on Aug. 10, 1987.

The Baghdad communiqué said Iraq would make further attacks on the Iranian economy. It was the first Iraqi air raid on an Iranian economic target in 1988.

Iran's state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Iraqi jets targeted "a non-military area in Tabriz... causing property losses but no casualties." It did not elaborate.

Cairo detains 'Iranian agent'

CAIRO (AP) — Security authorities have arrested an alleged Iranian agent who was recruiting Egyptians and forming an organisation to spread the "Iranian revolution" in Egypt, newspapers said in their Friday editions.

In identical statements apparently issued by the Interior Ministry, daily newspapers said the Iranian agent had been receiving his orders from Mahmoud Mohiaddin, Iran's charge d'affaires to Cairo who was expelled last May.

Al Ahram, Al Akhbar and Al Gomhuriya said security authorities had "recently arrested an agent of Iranian intelligence who was working on forming an organisation including Egyptian elements."

The brief statement said the investigations showed this was an anti-government organisation and that "Iran was still intensifying its efforts to export the Iranian revolution to the region."



A Khan Yunis boy holds a stone as he joins other boys in chanting anti-Israeli slogans and flashing the V-for-victory sign at Israeli soldiers.

Goulding visits occupied lands facing opposition from Shamir

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A high-ranking U.N. official arrived here Friday despite Israeli opposition to investigate the plight of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

No Israeli representatives were on hand to receive U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Murrack Goulding who came in the wake of two Security Council decisions condemning Israel for its policies in the occupied territories.

Resolution 605, passed on Dec. 22, called on U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar to investigate "ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation" and report back to the Security Council by Jan. 20.

The decision angered Israeli leaders who contended that the United Nations was interfering in Israel's "international security" affairs.

The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, said Thursday he would not meet Mr. Goulding. "I think there's no need for it," Shamir told Israel Television.

"We don't accept this U.N. resolution and we won't cooperate with any side aimed at implementing it."

"I've seen various reports on this in the... newspapers and I've learned not to believe what they

say. I'm waiting for a reply from the Israeli foreign minister."

A government official said the foreign minister, Shimon Peres, would meet Mr. Goulding on Jan. 11 and "explain fully Israel's objection to Resolution 605."

Mr. Goulding refused to discuss the details of his trip.

Israel has also said it would not abide by a second Security Council resolution passed earlier this week which called on the Jewish state not to deport Palestinians.

Israel has ordered the deportation of nine Palestinians who allegedly led protests which erupted throughout the occupied territories on Dec. 9.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ehud Gol said Mr. Goulding, an under-secretary general for political affairs, had made no request for assistance to travel beyond the so-called "green line" of Israel's pre-1967 borders.

Israel Television said on Thursday that Mr. Shamir's office was considering barring Mr. Goulding from touring the occupation zone.

It was not clear if Mr. Goulding would also visit South Lebanon. Lebanon has complained to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar about Israeli aggression in South Lebanon. (See page 2).

Khomeini's message to Khamenei seen as part of power struggle in Tehran

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A power struggle appeared to have been stepped up in Tehran Friday after the revolutionary patriarch, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, accused the president of the Islamic republic, Ali Khamenei, of trying to go too far in limiting the powers of government.

The rare personal criticism was contained in a letter from Khomeini published in Tehran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Thursday.

Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, a key contender for power in a post-Khomeini Iran, welcomed the letter and berated anyone who might deviate from the 87-year-old patriarch's line.

The developments appeared to signal a step-up in the struggle over who will rule Iran after Khomeini, reportedly ailing, dies.

In his letter, Khomeini criticised views that he said the president had expressed during a Friday prayer sermon last week on the role of government in an Islamic society.

Although the argument was couched in religious terms, the strength of language and the fact

it was directed at a named individual, Khamenei, was unusual. "Your observations during the Friday prayers apparently purports that you do not recognise government as an institution ordained by the Almighty and founded with absolute power entrusted to the Prophet," Khomeini wrote.

"Your conclusion on the proposition based on my earlier statement that 'government exercises power only within the bounds of the divine statutes' is a misquote and a misinterpretation."

The agency's dispatch did not give a full explanation of Khomeini's views on the limits of government power.

"Government, which stems from the absolute powers of the Prophet Mohammad, is a primary rule in Islam taking precedence over... praying, fasting and making the Haj pilgrimage," Tehran Radio quoted him as telling Khamenei.

Analysts said Khomeini's strongest power was the power of the government and would boost Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi against groups in the leadership seeking to limit the role of the state.

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Spinach	100	100
Tomatoes	100	100
Turnip	100	100

Voters given more time to obtain identification cards

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani Friday decided to reopen registration to allow more time for eligible voters to obtain their individual identification cards, which are required for active participation in any forthcoming parliamentary elections.

The registration period is effective until the end of December 1988.

Mr. Dajani has instructed Director of the Civil Registration Department (CRD) Adnan Mirza to take all measures necessary to facilitate the process, in order to obtain these vital documents.

Roman Orthodox pope begins official visit

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Roman Orthodox Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and the whole of Africa Parthenios, accompanied by Patriarch of Jerusalem Theodoros I and bishops from Alexandria, arrived here via King Hussein Bridge to begin a five-day official visit to Jordan.

In an arrival statement, Pope and Patriarch Parthenios said that he came to the region to visit Jerusalem which is, he said, a Jordanian city.

He said that during his visit to Jordan, he will meet with His Majesty King Hussein and bless his efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Pope and Patriarch Parthenios also said he would meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince

Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior Jordanian officials.

Envoy to Rome honours Patriarch Sabbah

Also on Friday, in Rome, Jordan's ambassador to Italy, Tareq Madi held a luncheon in honour of newly-appointed Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah.

In a welcoming speech, Mr. Madi expressed satisfaction and happiness over the Vatican's decision to appoint an Arab in this post and wished him success. Patriarch Sabbah, who was consecrated by Pope John Paul II on Jan. 6, expressed appreciation, love and loyalty to King Hussein and pledges his support for Arab causes.

NAF directors review past year's achievements today

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, who is also president of the National Aid Fund (NAF) today presides over a meeting of the fund's directors to discuss its achievements in 1987.

The directors will also discuss the administrative and technical problems facing the NAF's branches and review plans designed to improve the NAF's performance and enhance its direct contacts with government institutions.

Also on the meeting's agenda are the holding of symposiums, seminars and lectures on the fund's objectives and prospects for forming national committees to help support the NAF's financial resources.

Hindawi, Hawamdeh discuss school construction project

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Thouran Hindawi has reviewed with Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh the school construction plan drawn up by a technical committee entrusted with implementing the recommendations of the first National Conference on Education.

During the Thursday meeting, Mr. Hindawi, Mr. Hawamdeh and other senior officials from both ministries also examined private contractors' abilities to carry out the school construction plan, which was deemed necessary in order to end the current double-shift school system and to cope with the annual increase in the

number of students entering schools.

Also Thursday, Mr. Hindawi presided over a meeting attended by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Jawad Al Anani to discuss prospects of including computer science in school curricula.

The participants stressed the need to support the RSS in its plans to manufacture computers in a bid to make more computers available on the Jordanian market. They also stressed the need for designing a plan for training the educational personnel to teach in the Ministry of Education's schools.

Jordan and Pakistan sign cultural exchange agreement

ISLAMABAD (Petra) — Jordan and Pakistan have signed an agreement on bilateral cultural cooperation.

The agreement provides for cooperation in education, sports, youth activities, archaeology, arts and handicrafts, as well as the exchange of scientific and cultural information.

The agreement was signed Thursday by Jordan's ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Fakhri Abu Taleb and the under secretary of the Pakistani Ministry of Culture.

Local firm to build first phase of housing project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has awarded a tender to a local firm for constructing the first phase of a housing project at Umm Nuwara in Amman Governorate.

The first phase of the three-stage project entails laying the infrastructure for the housing project. The initial phase is due to be completed by May.

The tender was included in two agreements signed Thursday by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber and the general manager of the local firm.

Vocational training centres to set special education units

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development recently signed an agreement with the United Nations and the Arab Gulf Programme for setting up special education units at vocational training centres and special

education workshops at the ministry's vocational rehabilitation centres.

Under this one-year agreement, which begins in March, the Arab Gulf Programme and the U.N. will contribute \$15,000 to finance the project.

Egyptian parliament speaker hails King's efforts towards Arab solidarity

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Egyptian Peoples Council Speaker Rifaat Al Mahjoub Friday hailed His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to heal Arab rifts and regain Arab solidarity.

"King Hussein's initiative was behind the restoration of Jordanian-Egyptian relations, and it was a courageous and daring step by the King which paved the way for other Arab states to restore their ties with Egypt," Dr. Mahjoub said in a press conference here at the end of a visit to Iraq.

He said that the outcome of the Amman extraordinary Arab summit was positive due largely to efforts exerted by King Hussein to clear the Arab atmosphere.

Dr. Mahjoub stressed that his country was committed to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, and that it was exerting pressure on Israel to accept the idea of the international peace conference on the Middle East.

The Egyptian parliament speaker emphasised the need to

remove all obstacles hindering the convening of the international conference.

Dr. Mahjoub also expressed support for the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories and said the past month of violent protests could help solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He was quoted by Associated Press as saying the recent violence "proved that there is no alternative to achieving peace in the area, and Israel should understand that."



Tarek, Yazan and Mohammad Rajai: Identical triplets delivered by Mrs. Mouna Rajai in a case described as "a rare occurrence in medical history" (Petra photo)

Healthy triplets born in 'rare' case

By Rana Sabbah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After six years of infertility, a 29-year-old Jordanian woman gave birth to identical male triplets, and the supervising doctors called the case as "a rare occurrence in medical history."

Mrs. Mouna Rajai was reported by her doctor in "excellent condition" 24 hours after she delivered her three "healthy and very active male babies" Thursday afternoon.

Tarek, Yazan and Mohammad were the names given to the triplets, who were born with normal weights of 2.2 kilograms (kg), 1.95 kg and 1.650 kg, respectively.

Echoing his wife's feelings, Mr. Rajai told the Jordan Times, "Our happiness over having three babies cannot be described."

The babies were delivered during a one-hour Caesarean section operation that was headed by veteran Jordanian obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr. Issam Al Saket.

Dr. Saket, who has been supervising Mrs. Rajai for one year, described the delivery as "rare," since the chances of a woman giving birth to identical male triplets on term and without hormonal treatment is one in 18,000.

He said the patient was not given any hormone injections. "She had no hormonal stimulation. Her ovum was divided into three."

Barren women are usually given hormonal treatment to induce multiple ovulation, resulting in the implantation of two or three ova.

Moreover, in the case of triple pregnancy — which occurs in one

out of every 8,000 pregnancies — the mother would commonly deliver either three females or babies of both sexes.

"But Mrs. Rajai gave birth to three identical males," Dr. Saket said.

Another factor adding to the rarity of such a birth is that women carrying triplets usually deliver prematurely (before completing nine months of pregnancy), as it is often difficult for the uterus to accommodate three or more babies up until the last month.

In her case, Mrs. Rajai was given medication to suppress premature labour contractions and was advised to rest in bed as she entered her eighth month.

Mrs. Rajai and the three newborns are expected to be discharged from the Palestine Hospital on Sunday.

Three more Palestinians fall victim to Israelis

(Continued from Page 1)

who was recovering from a leg wound, said he was "coming from friend's house when I was shot in the leg."

Army officials confirmed marksman used .22-calibre sniper rifles to "single out those who were inciting the crowds."

In Gaza City, protesters gathered in front of the Al Amari Mosque and set fire to tyres after Friday noon prayers. Moments later soldiers arrived in jeeps and the protesters hurled stones.

The soldiers fired tear-gas canisters and chased some of the Arabs into alleyways. One middle-aged man was overcome by the gas and was taken away for treatment by passersby.

Tyres were set ablaze in the central Palestine Square and soldiers used water cannons to put out the flames.

The army said a firebomb had been thrown at an Israeli patrol, causing no injuries.

A pamphlet signed by Jihad Islami was distributed in mosques, stores and left on street corners. It called for a stay-at-home strike in solidarity with about 1,100 Arabs who remain in jail on protest-related charges.

"Tomorrow (Saturday) there will be a strike. Every car that passes in the street will be burned and destroyed and every store that opens will be burned and destroyed," said the pamphlet.

"Don't come out of your houses on Saturday... to prove to your sons in prison... that you are with them."

At the Jabalya refugee camp near Gaza City, residents said 21 Arabs had been arrested in overnight sweeps and soldiers had gone door-to-door in some areas looking for suspects.

In Jerusalem, police fired tear-gas to disperse protesters who staged a demonstration after noon prayers at the Al Aqsa Mosque. Protesters shouted: "In spirit, in blood, we sacrifice for you, oh Palestine."

"Things have absolutely got

out of hand. In the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, people have reached a stage of frustration. They feel they have lost everything that they have very little to lose," said Rashad Al Shawaa, former mayor of Gaza City.

In Rafah, on the border with Egypt, the Palestine Press Service said the army used a helicopter to drop tear-gas on demonstrators.

The army imposed curfews on three West Bank refugee camps — Balata, Amari and Jelazoun — because of violent incidents involving petrol bombs and stone-throwing demonstrations.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accused the Israeli army Thursday of using nerve gas against Palestinians in the occupied territories and said several had been killed by it.

Bassam Abu Sheif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told Reuters that Israel started to use the lethal gas three days ago.

He said thousands of nerve gas bombs had been thrown from helicopters into Palestinian camps and densely-populated areas of the occupied territories.

In Belgrade, the PLO bureau issued a statement saying two people had died from the gas. It

named them as Maisa Nasal, 16, from the West Bank town of Qalqilya, and Enes Shahin, 10.

The statement said Bernard Miller, a representative of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), had formally complained to the Israeli authorities about the use of nerve gas.

"According to the UNRWA representative, 10 youths asked for urgent medical help from doctors of this international body," it said, adding: "It was confirmed that all the cases occurred as a consequence of the effects of the nerve gas."

A military spokesman said 30 Palestinians were put in "administrative detention" — a practice allowing suspects to be imprisoned by order of military commander for up to six months without trial — in the West Bank on Tuesday and Wednesday alone.

More had been detained since, both in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, but figures were not available, he said.

A military review board in Gaza City, meanwhile, finished hearing the appeals of four Palestinians who were ordered deported on Sunday.

Syrian envoys end Gulf mission

(Continued from Page 1)

Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa.

The five states on their itinerary of Mr. Khaddam and Mr. Sharaa, plus Saudi Arabia which Mr. Sharaa visited last month, make up the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Mr. Sharaa also paid a series of visits to Tehran last month and won tentative agreement from Iran's leaders to open a dialogue with the GCC.

President Sheikh Zayed has proposed that three neutral Arab leaders visit Iraq and Iran to thrash out a peace settlement. He proposed that Arab states offer to guarantee payment of war repa-

rations which might be due to Iran.

Iran has rebuffed repeated efforts by the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to stop the war, insisting first on the overthrow of the Iraqi government and international condemnation of Iraq as "the aggressor."

Iraq has called for unconditional implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, which demands an immediate ceasefire and return to international boundaries.

The Syrian initiative was seen as a key factor in an unexpectedly mild criticism of Iran by GCC leaders at their Dec. 26-29 summit in Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

Jordan highlights increasing literacy rate on Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The literacy rate in Jordan is continually rising, and, at present, a total of 10,710 illiterate adults are attending classes at 645 literacy centres throughout the Kingdom, according to the Ministry of Education.

world approaches the twenty-first century, all necessary steps should be taken to eradicate illiteracy which has been impeding economic and social development in the Arab World.

Referring to the Ministry of Education's literacy programmes, Mr. Sheikh said that it had been opening schools in towns, villages and the badia, offering regular education to nearly one-third of the population.

Jordan began adult education programmes in 1953, when several evening classes were opened in a number of cities, offering free education to those who missed educational opportunities when they were young.

It was not until 1965 that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development joined forces to launch large-scale programmes to educate illiterate adults.

Ministry spokesman Khaled Al Sheikh said that the increase in literacy is due to the intensification of efforts by the ministry to provide education to all segments of the public.

In his statement marking Jordan's observance of the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy Friday, Mr. Sheikh did not give the exact number of the illiterate people in the country, which, in September 1987, stood at 26 per cent of the population.

That figure, according to Ministry of Education Secretary-General Radi Al Waqfi, represented a dramatic improvement

from 1961, when it was calculated that 67 per cent of the population was illiterate.

Dr. Waqfi said that the ministry was doubling its efforts towards eradicating the last traces of illiteracy in Jordan by the year 2000.

According to Mr. Sheikh, the Arab League ruled in 1966 that Jan. 8 should be observed annually as the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy, to serve as a reminder of intensified efforts towards spreading education among all segments of the public throughout the Arab World.

Mr. Sheikh said that as the

National research centre encourages cooperative aid, agricultural development

AMMAN (Petra) — The newly established National Centre for Agricultural Research and the Transfer Technology is currently executing a programme designed to encourage cooperative societies to increase their support for farmers in developing Jordan's highlands, the centre's director, Youssef Rushdi said Friday in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Dr. Rushdi said that this assistance will entail training farmers on the use of modern agricultural machinery, fertilisers and improved seeds.

He said that the centre is also trying to establish agricultural companies or cooperatives for investing in large areas of privately-owned land, without encroaching upon the rights of the owners, and ensuring that profits from the land are distributed to all.

Another problem which the centre is currently tackling is disorderly animal grazing. Mr. Rushdi noted. He said the centre plans to create pasture land re-

serves cordoned off from the other arable lands for allowing animals to graze freely. The centre has already carried out its first successful experiment on controlled grazing in the high regions of Ajloun, Dr. Rushdi pointed out.

In addition, he said the centre carries out training programme and field trips for farmers and animal breeders.

Early next year, the centre plans to set up four research and extension service units at Ramtha, Mushaqqar, Rabbeh and Shobak; later these units will be transformed into regional centres, according to Dr. Rushdi.

Usama Al Bilbeisi, director of projects at the Ministry of Agriculture, told Petra that the centre, which cooperates with regional and international agricultural centres, serves as a nucleus for agricultural research and the transfer of agricultural technology to Jordan.

The centre, which functions under the aegis of the Higher Council on Science and Technology chaired by His Royal High-

ness Crown Prince Hassan, will be spreading public awareness of agricultural production and development through the various information media, according to Mr. Bilbeisi.

In implementing its projects, the centre cooperates with the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Jordanian universities and other organisations, Mr. Bilbeisi noted.

This centre, he said, is carrying out its programmes with the backing of a government fund which receives assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

He pointed out that the centre's financing is directed mainly to agricultural research projects and the development of large areas of privately-owned land.

Mr. Bilbeisi also said that the centre will address diseases that affect crops, means for increasing production and land reclamation.

FJCC board stresses role of trade sector in boosting national economy

IRBID (Petra) — President of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) Hamdi Al Tabbaa said that the trade sector in Jordan played an important role in efforts to boost the national economy.

Mr. Tabbaa, during a meeting of the FJCC board held in Irbid Thursday, added that Jordan enjoyed a strategic location and an international reputation which qualified it to be a distinguished centre for trade and industrial and service activities in the region.

"Jordan's economy has shown

a good capacity to respond to the current economic situation, as real growth rates have remained much better than those in many developing countries and in some advanced countries," Mr. Tabbaa pointed out.

He said that the government had been doing its utmost to assist the recovery of the national economy by concentrating, in its financial and economic policies, on encouraging local and foreign investors by granting privileges and incentives, thus creating a suitable investment climate.

The government, he said, also embarked on a policy of supporting local production and national exports and, at the same time, rationalising imports in order to reduce the trade deficit.

The FJCC president added that the 1988 budget reflected the government's policy aimed at activating the national economy.

During Thursday's meeting, the board also discussed the federation's 1987 activities, its 1988 budget and a number of issues concerning chambers of commerce in various governorates.

Rifai, Masri meet senator

(Continued from Page 1)

occupied territories. The senator was forced to retreat from the Qalandia refugee camp near Ramallah shortly after arrival Thursday when a violent confrontation broke out between Israeli troops and a few dozen Palestinian students.

"I think it's one thing that comes with occupation, and Palestinians do not like it," Mr. Chaffee told AP. "It is a political problem and it requires a political solution... but the concerned parties cannot agree on a suitable approach."

He asserted the need for an international peace conference, but hoped that the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, "can be persuaded." The senator criticised the Israeli military for shooting at Palestinian demonstrators. "I do not think it was helpful to use live ammunition."

Commenting on Israel's decision to deport nine Palestinians accused of leading anti-occupation protests, Mr. Chaffee said: "I think this move inflames passion against all international laws. I do not think it solves the problem... the solution lies with some hope for the Palestinians... a belief that there would be an end to the conflict."

Abu Nuseir estate to host main Arbor Day celebration

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will this month mark Arbor Day with tree planting celebrations throughout the country. Ghaleb Arrabi, director of the Afforestation and Range Department at the Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement that the main celebration this year will be held under royal patronage at the Abu Nuseir housing estate. He said that nearly 250 dunums of land will be planted with fruit and forest trees in the course of the celebrations in and around the housing estate.

He also said that a public garden will be set up within the Abu Nuseir area for the benefit of the residents, in cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality.

Altogether, 30,000 olive and pine tree saplings will be planted during the celebrations, and these will be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture's nursery, which produced nine million saplings in the past year, according to Dr. Abu Arrabi.

In addition, he said that Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud toured Thursday the areas which will be planted in the Abu Nuseir estate and was briefed on preparations for the planting process.

Dr. Abu Arrabi said that saplings produced by the nurseries are being sold to the public at 100 fils a piece, and that the ministry is distributing tree saplings to all organisations, schools and the public to encourage them to plant more trees.

Another Congressional delegation is due here today on a 10-day visit upon the invitation of the World Affairs Council.

During the visit, the delegation will meet with a number of senior officials and will visit archaeological and touristic sites, as well.

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior U.S. Congressional staff delegation Friday left Amman at the end of a several-day official visit, during which they met with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials.

The delegation also visited a number of archaeological, historical and touristic sites in the

Jordan Times

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Uprising needs support

THE Civil disobedience which the people of the occupied Arab territories plan to carry out is considered a courageous development of the uprising in the face of Israel's atrocities against the Arab population. This reaction to Israel's arbitrary measures and attacks on civilians is a legitimate right of the Arab people who have been suffering under Israeli oppression for the past 20 years, and who have been exposed to terrorism and to all forms of torture. The disobedience is a demonstration by the oppressed population of their real feelings in the face of continued Israeli crimes which have now entered a second month. The coming disobedience in the occupied territory is tantamount to a rebellion and a continuation of the struggle for freedom; and should therefore prompt the Arab countries and world organisations to support this rightful and legitimate struggle. The Palestinians are now in need of genuine and practical support from their brothers and kinsmen in the Arab World to help them stand up to Israel's unprecedented acts of terrorism, and to help them maintain their struggle to achieve freedom. The Arab countries should realise that worldwide condemnation of Israel's practices serves as a favourable catalyst in the struggle, and creates a positive atmosphere for Arab leaders' action.

Al Dustour: Uprising enters second month

THE uprising of the Arab population under Israeli rule has now entered its second month with no sign that Israel is giving up its current repressive policies or showing any inclination towards accepting the will of the international community. Israel seems intent on pursuing all forms of terrorist acts in total defiance of U.N. resolutions and in violation of international principles and values; and is killing more women and children, imposing curfews on refugee camps and depriving the indigenous population of their basic needs for food supplies and medicine. Israel's continued onslaught and repression opens the way for the local Arab population to exercise their legitimate rights of resisting occupation and defending their rights and their homeland by any possible means available to them. "Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's falsehoods and deceptions will serve Israel no good, and the presence of troops and their atrocities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip can by no means stop the Arab uprising and revolt. The Israelis are arrogantly pursuing their objective of Judaizing Arab land and evicting Arab inhabitants, but the Arab people are more determined than ever to thwart Israel's actions and evil aims. The rebellious Arab population and the increasing anti-Israeli actions are significant signs of the Arab inhabitants' determination to resist occupation and achieve freedom. As the uprising enters the second month, Israel is proving more adamant in its position, but the Arabs too are going ahead with plans to abort Israel's plans.

Sawt Al Shaab: World condemns Israel

FOR the first time in many years the U.N. Security Council has issued a unanimous resolution condemning Israel's ill-practices in the occupied Arab lands and urging it to refrain from deporting Arab men from their homeland. British Minister of State for Middle Eastern Affairs David Mellor said his views about Israel's atrocities represent those of the British government, and the U.S. administration has joined the world community at the Security Council in condemning Israel's actions. Therefore, it is time for Israel to realise that it can no longer pursue its policies in defiance of the world community and even its own friends, and should realise that its iron first policies and acts of repression against the Arab population should end. Israel should realise that it can no longer keep land it occupied by force and at the same time continue to enjoy peace and security. It also must know that it cannot live in total isolation from the international community whose resolutions it continues to violate and disregard. We want Israel to succumb to Security Council's resolutions and world demands by stopping its atrocities and ending its occupation of Arab people.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Israel rejects U.N. resolution

SOON after the U.N. Security Council condemned Israeli actions, calling on Israel not to deport the Arab citizens, Israeli leaders announced their rejection of the resolution which was taken unanimously. They declared their regret over the U.S. voting for the resolution and said that they would go ahead with plans to execute the deportation measures, in clear defiance of the Geneva conventions and international laws and principles. In the light of Israel's reaction, the U.N. Security Council ought to take steps to stop Israel's defiance of the international community's will. The council's responsibility does not end by issuing resolutions, especially as those non-committing themselves to implementing these resolutions tend to create an even more dangerous situation, by tampering with peace. The council ought to stop repression committed by Israel against the innocent civilian population under its rule, and end the tragedy of the Palestinian people. Lack of practical steps on the part of the council had in the past brought about a freezing of U.N. resolutions and served to encourage the Israelis to pursue their arbitrary acts and terrorist activity against the civilian population.

Al Dustour: Israel isolated

A U.N. Security Council resolution adopted unanimously on Wednesday represents a slap in the face of Israel by the international community which has become appalled by atrocities committed against the Arab population in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This resolution which condemned Israel's atrocities is the second of its kind since the start of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories a month ago, and demonstrates more clearly than ever before the isolation of the Jewish state from the rest of the community of nations. It is clear now that the whole world supports the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, and Israel stands alone in confronting the international community's will continuing to oppose what is right and just. The Israeli government which succeeded in unifying its stand in the face of the uprising and which sent out troops to quell the uprising and the revolt, has found itself powerless in the face of the worldwide condemnation. Israel stands out naked and exposed to the whole world unable to protect itself with falsehood by which it had deceived the world over the past 40 years.

U.N. vote seen straining U.S. relations with Israel

By Carol Giacomo

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Washington's unusual support for a U.N. resolution criticising Israel adds new strain to the U.S.-Israel relationship and could make America's key Middle East ally more defiant in handling protests in the occupied lands, according to private analysts.

But at least one former U.S. diplomat who is partial toward Israel said Washington had no choice in the matter and too much should not be read into the vote.

The diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said in an interview there are times "when an issue like this is brought to the U.N. Security Council and we can't duck it."

The diplomat said the United States, as a world power and founding member of the United Nations, did not have the luxury of saying "these are our allies and we will support them no matter what."

For the first time in six years, the United States on Tuesday voted in favour of a Security Council resolution critical of Israel.

The vote followed a difficult year in U.S.-Israel relations because of revelations about the Iran-contra scandal and a furor about Israeli espionage in the United States.

The resolution called on Israel not to deport Palestinians it has accused of leading anti-occupation protests in the West Bank and Gaza.

At least 26 Palestinians have been shot dead during the protests, which erupted on Dec. 9. Publicly and privately, U.S. officials have faulted Israel for using excessive force.

Israel expressed disappointment at the U.S. vote and right-wing parliamentarian Moshe Arens, a former defence minister, said it reflected a deterioration in the bilateral relationship.

He told Israeli army radio the United States must realise "the decision must be in our favour on issues connected to the security of the state and that the allied relations... obligate the United States to support our standpoints."

The former U.S. diplomat said Arens exaggerated the nature of any alliance.

"There is nothing implied in our alliance that requires us to support Israel in every forum on every occasion if the government thinks the Israelis are off-base," he said.

He predicted the U.S. vote will "make the Israelis more defiant on the issue of deportations and make things tense for a while but won't fundamentally change the U.S.-Israel relationship."

Middle East expert Jed Snyder called the deportation decision a "strategic mistake" that could seriously jeopardise U.S.-Israeli ties.

"This is not the first time that Israel has placed Washington in an embarrassing position," he said.

Snyder, deputy director of the Hudson Institute, said the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon began a process of self-examination that has made U.S. lawmakers and American Jews look more critically at Israel.

"My view is that unconditional support for Israel is going to be harder to come by in the next few years," he said.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman rejected suggestions the relationship had deteriorated. "It's a very strong, it's a very diverse relationship," he said.

William Maynes, editor of foreign policy magazine, said the issue is not Washington breaking ranks with Israel but Israel forcing Washington to reassert long-standing policy.

Succeeding U.S. administrations have taken the position that "there should be an exchange of land for peace," in the Middle East and that Israel should treat Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza according to the 1949 Geneva Convention rules for civilians in occupied lands, he said.

That convention prohibits deportations of persons in occupied territories "regardless of their motives."

He said the recent protests and Israeli plans to deport at least nine Palestinians had created a dilemma for Washington, Israel's staunchest ally and biggest benefactor, recipient of \$3 billion annually in aid.

On the one hand, the United States did not want to "get into an unnecessary showing match with the Israeli government or stir passions unnecessarily among Israelis or Palestinians" by taking

one side or the other, he said. On the other, it felt compelled to defend its long-standing policy on the occupied lands, he said.

Snyder speculated that Washington was concerned the deportations could create tensions and spur greater violence.

The U.N. vote was a signal the Israelis "cannot expect to take radical steps that ignore the long-term implications of their policies in the region," he said.

More importantly, he said, the resolution was a chance for the United States to show Arab states that in this one narrow case at least it could disagree with Israel.

Both Maynes and Snyder criticised Israel for overreacting to the Palestinian protests and for failing to deal with the substance of the problem.

"They are only responding to the violence, not to the causes of that violence," namely the conditions of life for Palestinians under occupation, Snyder said.

Djibouti dreams of becoming 'Hong Kong of the Red Sea'

By Pascal Fletcher

Reuter

DIJIBOUTI — For 10 years since Djibouti's independence from France, its leaders and businessmen have cherished a dream — to make their small, resource-starved country a "Hong Kong of the Red Sea."

By tapping the riches of one of the world's busiest shipping crossroads they hoped to turn Djibouti into a major trading and manufacturing centre.

The dream has not become a reality. Hemmed in by an unproductive desert wasteland, Djibouti's port capital, where 65 per cent of the nation's 45,000 people live, depends for its survival on the outside world.

Djibouti has minimal agriculture and little domestic industry and imports nearly all of its food and energy needs. Its economic activity is centred on the trade and services provided by its port and on income from import duty and taxes.

But government and business leaders are renewing efforts to sell Djibouti as a potential target for foreign investment.

"In the next 10 years, Djibouti can become a centre of business and industry," Ali Coubeche, head of Djibouti's international chamber of commerce and industry, told Reuters.

Situated at the southern entrance to the Red Sea and acting as a gateway to the Indian Ocean and the Gulf, Djibouti is already a major shipping port and an important base for French naval and air forces operating in the Indian Ocean.

It is at the centre of a potential market of 70 million people in Ethiopia, Somalia, North and South Yemen, Saudi Arabia and

Oman and is ideally placed to reach markets further away in Africa, Europe and Asia.

Djiboutian leaders want to build on this strategic position, transforming the country into a hub of trade, receiving and distributing goods on a regional and international basis.

They want to create a thriving manufacturing and re-export industry which will import raw and semi-finished products, transform them with the help of Djiboutian labour and dispatch them to these foreign markets.

Conchebe said the sort of re-exportable goods which could be produced or assembled in the free trade zone established in 1980 included cars, clothing and electrical products.

Djibouti has a modern port equipped for raw cargo and container traffic, modern telecommunications, a stable currency convertible against the dollar and liberal investment and foreign exchange laws which allow unrestricted import and export of currency and tax breaks.

Foreign aid officials based in Djibouti agree that the country must diversify and broaden the base of its economy. "There must be a new mentality which goes beyond trade and looks at industry... industry must be created, jobs must be created," one aid official, who asked not to be named, said.

But some local bankers and businessmen say the right conditions do not yet exist for industrial growth. They point to high electricity costs, the result of Djibouti's heavy annual import bill for fuel, and a lack of skilled manpower to supply future industries.

Container traffic increased from 55 vessels in 1977 to 136 in 1980, boosted by the inauguration in 1985 of a deep water container terminal with "roll-on, roll-off" facilities.

Government officials say Djibouti can both compete with and complement the nearby ports of Berbera in Somalia, Assab in Ethiopia, Aden in North Yemen and Hoddeidah in South Yemen.

after newspapers alleged he had an extramarital affair with Miami model Donna Rice — a sex scandal that deeply embarrassed the party.

Twelve months ago, opinion

Regional rebellions rock the cradle of non-violence

By Dilip Ganguly

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Regional rebellions and terrorist attacks in India, which once viewed itself as the cradle of non-violence, cost the lives of at least 1,837 people last year, according to figures compiled by the government and the Associated Press.

More than 5,000 people were wounded in the political and sectarian violence.

"India is a boiling cauldron, I mean, a boiling, democratic cauldron," a Home Ministry spokesman said.

The most sustained and vicious rebellion is in Punjab, where Sikh militants seek greater autonomy or even an independent nation.

But 1982 also saw sectarian riots, a Gurkha guerrilla war in the tea plantations around Darjeeling and tribal revolts in the states of Bihar and Tripura. Last month brought a phenomenon virtually without precedent here — the taking of hostages; by Maoist guerrillas in the jungles of southern India.

"The events have no doubt raised questions about the future, but India is a big country, and in a democracy these things are bound to happen," said the Home Ministry spokesman, who under government regulations cannot be identified.

But political scientist Dhirubhai Sheth said failure to end the rebellions has a cumulative effect that cannot be ignored.

"The government is not only unable to counter the campaigns (rebellions) but does not have the guts or willingness to face them boldly," said Sheth, a professor and staff member of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

Robert Dole would defeat Hart, who leads the Democratic field, and trounce any of Hart's rivals.

Hart and black activist Jesse Jackson, the leaders in popularity

with Democratic voters, are currently seen by most commentators as unelectable.

In the contest for the Republican Party candidacy, all eyes are on Iowa and New Hampshire.

unleashed by Naxalites, who held 24 government employees hostage from Dec. 27 to Dec. 29 in Andhra Pradesh state until eight Naxalites were freed from prison.

After the state government caved in to the Naxalites demands, the federal government issued a statement that said: "There can be no compromise with such violence and there can be no appeasement of terrorism."

The Naxalites, who take their name from Naxalbari village in West Bengal state, advocate armed overthrow of the government and are active in Andhra Pradesh and in pockets of Bihar and West Bengal.

Another trouble spot is the Himalayan hill district of Darjeeling in West Bengal state where Gurkhas, once the feared fighters of the imperial British army, want a separate state. At least 60 people were killed last year in Gurkha attacks.

Communal rivalry claimed 179 lives last year, mostly in New Delhi, Meerut, Ahmedabad and Baroda.

There also were rebellions by "tribals," who often live outside the political and economic mainstreams of Indian society and resent intrusions by settlers from other areas.

In Tripura, along the border with Bangladesh, the government blamed 70 killings in 1982 on tribespeople seeking autonomy or secession.

Another revolt, by tribespeople who want a separate state in the Bihar's Jharkhand region, claimed 15 lives last year.

"Gandhi had promised robust economic growth and solution to all the problems," said Sheth. "It all looked rosy. The petals held on for some time, but now they are falling, and falling fast."

By Michael Gelb

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Democrats enter the 1988 U.S. presidential election year without a compelling issue or a strong and dynamic candidate, but the Republicans could learn their choice for the White House as early as February.

As the parties search for a candidate who can take over the leadership of the nation from President Reagan, 1987 is seen as the year that turned on its head for the Democrats.

Republican political analysts are now claiming that only a divisive Republican nomination fight or a severe economic downturn can prevent Reagan's party from holding the White House for another four years.

Twelve months ago, Democratic favourite Gary Hart was the voters' preference and the Republicans seemed to be in a shambles in the wake of the Iran-contra affair.

The Democrats had been confident 1988 would be their year to recapture the White House after eight Republican years, with the party capitalising on the Iran-contra scandal and a perceived desire for change among the voters.

As the parties go into election year, things have changed.

But the Republicans have weathered the Iran-contra scandal. President Reagan has signed an historic treaty with the Soviet Union scrapping medium-range nuclear arms, and many Republican strategists are now confident

about the future.

The surprise decision of Hart to rejoin the race has thrown the Democratic contest into confusion. The former Colorado senator, 51, quit the race last May

after newspapers alleged he had an extramarital affair with Miami model Donna Rice — a sex scandal that deeply embarrassed the party.

Twelve months ago, opinion

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مكتبة الجولدن



Marwan Muasher Talking straight

THE BUDGET is one of the most important, if not the most important, document that the government produces. It sets the framework for all the government's activities. Its far reaching consequences thus demand close scrutiny from the body entitled to do that by the constitution, namely parliament.

It is obvious for all those who followed the budget deliberations and approval by the Lower House of Parliament that this year's budget was passed with great ease and few problems. This was apparently done by including members of Parliament from almost all schools of thought in the Financial Committee entitled with studying the budget. Thus, this very important document directly affecting all of our lives was passed in a record 10

days, among insistence from Parliament that it was carefully studied. Memory is too fresh to forget the new election law, also passed in record time, also among insistence that the Legal Committee has given it enough scrutiny. The result is that at the first hint of elections, when the law was put to test, our same parliamentarians who passed it only last year are now demanding that it be revised.

It is a healthy sign for government and Parliament to cooperate. On the other hand, one has the right to question compromises that would leave a lot of questions unanswered. One has the right to wonder whether, for the sake of speed, important budget details were studied or not. To put it bluntly, we want cooperation for its results, not for its own sake.

It is thus difficult for me to believe that this document was given the due attention it deserves in 10 days. Gratitude for members of the Committee for their enduring efforts should not be used as an excuse to prevent citizens from insisting that their representatives do their proper homework.

A quick look at our representatives show that there are few financial experts in the Lower House of Parliament, let alone in the Financial Committee. Thus, efforts at studying the budget remain incomplete unless coupled with professional help from independent financial experts. It is not enough to consult only with the minister of finance or the director of the budget. It is not clear to me that such financial

help was sought, and that thorough analyses and judgments could be made in 10 days.

Yet Parliament insists that, despite the lack of financial expertise, despite the lack of proper information resources, despite the lack of sufficient time, the Financial Committee has done a "marvellous" job. It does not explain how. While I am not necessarily criticising the 1988 budget, I would like to believe, being a layman, that my representatives are taking all steps to make sure that it is a sound one.

To the average citizen, who does not attend the meetings of the Financial Committee, all he can go by are the general sessions of Parliament. Judging from these sessions, and the budget discussions that took place, I

would be hesitant to trust judgments of some of our parliamentarians. I dare say that the level of discussions was at times bordering on the financially irresponsible. Otherwise, how can one explain the number of members who stood on the podium demanding on the same note an increase in expenditures in different sectors and a reduction of

the deficit in the budget? I can only deduce that a member doing this is either trying to please his constituents by demanding the impossible, or that he lacks basic financial concepts. Both cases are inexcusable. Not one single member suggested ways of trimming the budget versus increases in other sectors that he demanded. And while several members raised concerns about certain

items in the budget, none was ready to follow these concerns with specific suggestions or resolutions. Deputies seemed content to speak their mind on whatever issues concerned them, and then to go back to their seats and give their unqualified approval. The concept of follow-up appeared to be lacking.

The legislative branch is, unfortunately and bluntly, not always up to the required par. The present Parliament is not always fully informed, and there are no signs to suggest that it is working to set up a better system of information. It is not even capable of demanding and getting more money from the budget itself is approving to upgrade its information collecting and processing capabilities to enable it to

have better judgments.

Most of what we listened to last month were general statements, vague criticisms, or narrow demands. We expected Parliament to discuss the budget of Jordan, yet all we got were selfish demands for this region or that, with no harmony to the national budget.

We need some new blood. Not that a new Parliament would change things drastically. A new Parliament would, in all probability, though, be younger and more educated. That in itself would be a positive development. I would inject some needed enthusiasm, be more informed, and seek information more seriously, all of which are required if our parliamentary process is to live up to the expectations of our people and our country.

U.S. science made major advances in 1987

By Jim Fuller
USA

WASHINGTON—This year has been marked by significant developments in science in the United States in areas ranging from the minute world of the AIDS virus to the gigantic world of exploding stars and massive clusters of galaxies that are causing changes in theories about forces that shaped the universe.

Probably the most beneficial developments for mankind have occurred in the area of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), where researchers in just a few short years have isolated and cloned the virus that causes the deadly disease, identified its genes and described their functions.

AIDS, which destroys the body's ability to fight disease, is expected to infect anywhere between five and 10 million people around the world by 1991.

This year two potential vaccines have been approved for human testing in the United States, one made from a virus that has been used to manufacture the smallpox vaccine and the second containing a protein produced by insects but mimicking protein on the surface of the AIDS virus.

The fact that two vaccine products have already been approved for testing against a disease that was recognised only six years ago is evidence of remarkable progress, Dr. Anthony Fauci, AIDS research coordinator at the National Institutes of Health, told reporters recently.

Also this year the drug zidovudine, or AZT, became the first and at this point only drug to be licensed for use in the treatment of AIDS in the United States. Although AZT is not a cure, it has had a major effect on the survival of AIDS patients. By the end of the year the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had approved about 40 drugs for testing against AIDS.

One of the most recent research developments involves the production of an artificial molecule that tricks the AIDS virus into not attacking human cells and that one day may be used to deliver toxic substances directly to the AIDS virus.

In another major advance this year, researchers have successfully mapped the relative positions of more than 400 genetic markers on all 46 human chromosomes, a

development that could lead to better ways to prevent and treat diseases related to defective genes. Markers are recognisable segments of chromosomes that serve as reference points for locating genes. Chromosomes are the threadlike components in the cell that carry the genes, the chemical blueprints that govern all inheritable traits.

Through the use of previously known genetic markers scientists have already made important discoveries about genetic factors in several diseases, including cystic fibrosis and some forms of mental illness.

The new map of genetic markers is considered an important step in a major effort to decipher the entire human genetic code, a feat that could have a revolutionary impact on health and disease. More than 3,500 million chemical units make up the genetic code, known as the human genome. Although only about one per cent of the genetic code has been sequenced (mapped to show the relative positions of the component chemical units), technological breakthroughs in the use of high-speed computers and lasers are expected to make the sequencing of the entire code eventually feasible.

The U.S. Department of Energy earlier this year directed two of its national laboratories to establish centers to study the human genome.

"Consider that 4,000 human diseases have a genetic basis," James Wyngaarden, director of the National Institutes of Health, told a recent medical symposium in Washington. "Such a project could result in discovery as to why some persons get diseases such as cancer, heart disease and mental illness."

In another major advance, scientists this year for the first time used ultrashort pulses of laser light to observe chemical molecules at the instant of their creation. Ahmed Zewail, professor of chemical physics at the California Institute of Technology, compared the new laser technique to a camera or microscope that can see exactly how chemicals react to form other chemicals.

"Observing the instant of a molecule's creation is for a chemist what observing the Big Bang would be for an astronomer," he said. The Big Bang explosion is the event believed to have started the expansion of the universe.

Understanding chemical reactions in detail might make it

possible someday to produce desired substances such as medicines and industrial chemicals cheaply, or to perform laser "surgery" on human genes to correct inherited defects, Zewail said. The new technique will also make it possible to observe the process by which an attacking virus, such as AIDS, implants its own genetic material into a human cell.

In physics, researchers have begun to demonstrate the practical potential of a new class of superconductors that could lead to profound technological changes throughout the world.

Superconductivity, the ability of a material to transmit electricity without resistance, could only be achieved in the past at super-cold temperatures. In the last year, however, researchers have been reporting superconductivity in a new class of ceramic materials at much warmer temperatures.

Although the commercial application of high-temperature superconductors may still be years away, experts report that they could eventually lead to better computers, magnetically levitated trains, and more efficient generation and transmission of electrical power. Scientists at Cornell University recently demonstrated that communications lines made from the new material can transmit data at speeds 100 times faster than today's state-of-the-art optical fiber networks.

Also this year President Reagan announced support for construction of the Superconducting Super Collider, which would become the world's largest and most powerful atomic particle smasher. The 83-kilometre ring-shaped tunnel will hurl subatomic particles at each other at close to the speed of light. The energy of the collisions will be comparable to the energy that existed in the universe a fraction of a second after the Big Bang. The new facility is expected to cost 4,400 million dollars and be completed in 1996.

In astronomy, the spectacular explosion of supernova 1987A has provided astronomers a rare opportunity to observe the development of an exploding star at close range. The supernova was first sighted last February in the Large Magellanic Cloud, located near the Milky Way galaxy. Astronomers have not seen a supernova this close in nearly 400 years, and never have they seen one so close with modern observ-

ing equipment.

Supernovas mark the death of giant stars and are the source of all heavy elements in the universe. Understanding them, according to astronomers, is a major part of understanding how the universe developed.

Perhaps the most puzzling aspect of supernova 1987A is a strange bright object that suddenly appeared beside the exploding star about a month after its discovery. The object was discovered by scientists of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Astronomers believe the large "mystery object," not predicted by supernova models, may be a clump of interstellar material lit up by the supernova, or the top of a plasma jet squirting out of the blast.

Also this year an astronomer at the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy, in Honolulu, discovered evidence that our own Milky Way galaxy is part of an oblong "supercluster complex" that encompasses millions of galaxies and stretches one-tenth the distance across the observable universe. Such a vast chain of galaxies is so large and complex it defies understanding in terms of current theories of cosmology.

According to Brent Tully, who used a supercomputer to graphically construct maps of the supercluster complex, it takes 1,000 million light years, or about 10 per cent of the age of the universe, for light to cross the length of the complex, suggesting that its pattern must have been laid down shortly after the birth of the universe. A light year is the distance light travels in one year at the speed of 297,600 kilometres per second.

The major development in environmental science came when scientists of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), using high-flying aircraft, found that man-made chemicals and severe weather conditions are responsible for the periodic disappearance of the protective ozone layer over the Antarctic continent each year.

The link between the chemicals, known as chlorofluorocarbons, and the destruction of ozone is so strong that the United States and 24 other signatories agreed last September on an unprecedented treaty to cut worldwide chlorofluorocarbon production by 50 per cent by the turn of the century.

Language reflects Israeli-Palestinian hatred

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

TEL AVIV—In the bitter struggle between Israel and the Palestinians under military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, words are barbed weapons. The vocabulary of the conflict reflects the intensity of mutual hatred and contempt, the refusal to accept the legitimacy of the other side.

Most Israelis will not speak of Palestinians. They call them Arabs.

"Israelis tend to use the word Palestinian only in expressions like 'Palestinian terror gang'," said Meron Benvenisti, an independent think-tank on the occupied territories.

Likewise most Palestinians cannot bring themselves to talk about Israelis. They call them Jews.

"They do not recognise our nationality. Why should we recognise theirs?" said Najwa Al Obeidi, 23, a Gaza secretary.

"We speak of the Jews because it is all of the Jews of the world who are against us," said a student at Gaza's Islamic University who asked not to be identified.

Palestinians refer to the recent wave of protests, in which Israeli army troops have shot dead at least 22 Palestinians and wounded more than 120, as "resistance," "a revolt" or "an insurrection."

Israelis call the protests "disorders" or "riots."

Among Israelis, Palestinian leaders tend to fall into two categories — "notables" or "inciters."

Psychologically, this reduces the Palestinian leadership to village elders or "criminal conspirators."

Official Israeli parlance does not recognise that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are occupied at

all. They are called "Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district" or "the administered territories."

Ordinary Israelis call them "the territories."

A director of Israel's government press office once replied to a letter seeking accreditation for a correspondent to cover the West Bank by saying there was no such bank — only Bank Leumi, the Israel Discount Bank and Bank Hapoalim.

In Hebrew, army officers and spokesmen routinely refer to Palestinians as "local residents", in phrases such as "local residents were killed in a disturbance."

They almost never say "soldiers shot dead a Palestinian."

Satirising the way Israelis talk about the conflict, Jerusalem Post columnist Robert Rosenberg wrote: "Jews are murdered, Arabs die, unless they are moderates, in which case they are notables."

Palestinians call themselves "nationalists", Israelis call them "terrorists".

An Israeli radio news bulletin might begin: "A unit of the Israel defence force clashed with a terror gang in Samaria last night."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, denying any spontaneity, legitimacy or seriousness to the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, spoke of "temporary disorders incited from abroad by the terror organisations."

Each side cherishes its martyrs. Israeli radio names every fallen Israeli soldier, usually broadcasting a biography and even the place and time of the funeral. It rarely names its Palestinian victims.

An Israeli army spokeswoman, becoming impatient with a reporter's questions about the names of the dead in the latest unrest, said: "The army cannot go and investigate every Mustafa you say died."

Jordan Television Channel two preview

Sat. — Jan. 9, 1988

8:30 Sorry

Little Foxes

As his wedding day approaches, Timothy discovers that marriages are not necessarily happy ever after.

9:00 Variety

10:20 Heart is a lonely hunter

Feature Film

Starring Alan Arkin and Sandra Locke

The film is about the life of a deaf-mute in a small southern town. Brought to the screen with admirable sensitivity by all those involved, it is a moving story of loneliness, human boorishness and cruelty. A remarkable prize-winning performance by Alan Arkin.

Sun. — Jan. 10, 1988

8:30 Farrington of the F.O.

9:10 Omnibus Hemingway

Documentary

(Part Two)

10:20 Secret Army

Sergeant on the Run

Three untrained pilots were asked to work in the country under occupation. They lost their courage upon seeing the first German soldier. Two of them were arrested and the third runs away.

Mon. — Jan. 11, 1988

8:30 Are You Being Served?

"Conduct unbecoming"

9:10 Moonlighting

10:20 Yuri Nosenko

Feature Film

A true-life spy drama starring Lee Jones.

This is one of the most remarkable stories ever to come out of the Cold War; a story not only of the cat-and-mouse confrontation between two mirror-image adversaries — Steve Daley and Yuri Nosenko — but also of the search for "Sasha, a KGB mole at the heart of the CIA."

Tue. — Jan. 12, 1988

8:30 Standby... Light!

Camera! Action!

9:30 Executive Stress

Caroline and Donald Fairchild are successfully managing to keep their marriage a secret from colleagues at Oasis Publishing, and Caroline is beginning to make quite a name for herself as editorial director, especially when it comes to spotting new writers. However, she doesn't find her sales and marketing director as supportive across the boardroom table as she might expect.

10:20 The Equalizer

Solo

11:10 Three's Company

Wed. — Jan. 13, 1988

8:30 Valerie

9:00 Well Being

All in the Mind

Documentary

The programme sets out to show that the mind is as potent as any drug and that it can be a major force in the cause as well as the cure of disease. A variety of therapies, orthodox and 'alternative', ranging from heart surgery to hypnosis, nomenclopathy and the laying on of hands are demonstrated as examples of how belief and the power of suggestion can contribute to our well being.

9:35 Alfred Hitchcock presents....

10:20 Floodtide

(Last Episode)

Snowstorm

Thn. — Jan. 14, 1988

8:30 Kate & Allie

9:10 Rags to Riches

10:20 Captain Horatio Hornblower

Feature Film

Starring Gregory Peck and Virginia Mayo.

Fri. — Jan. 15, 1988

8:30 Nothing is Easy

9:10 Magnum

10:20 Falcon Crest

11:10 Dr. At Large

Butling in the 1980s, some traditions never change

By Jeffrey Heller
Reuters

LONDON—An empty wine glass on her head and a champagne tray in her hands, the former owner of a Mississippi liquor store walked gingerly through a London hotel ballroom practising for the day she will become a butler.

It was a class in deportment at Ivor Spencer's butler school, where five students, murmuring in unison "it's a pleasure sir" were winding up a nine-week, £2,000 (\$3,600) course in serving the rich and famous.

"I just decided to chuck it all. I sold all I own," said Sharron Post, 40, former proprietor of a Tupelo, Mississippi liquor store. "Now I'll enjoy a high life style without having to fork out the money myself."

By the time she and her four male colleagues graduate from the six-year-old school, they will have had training in dining out at chic restaurants, shopping in the best stores — and from the morning newspaper.

Spencer, the school's headmaster and founder, is a royal toastmaster. He proposes the traditional toast to Queen Elizabeth at

official functions and ensures that protocol is observed at celebrations.

He told Reuters he got the idea of training butlers from a Hollywood producer friend who asked him to arrange to send him one.

Spencer said his graduates, 56 in all, can fetch salaries of between \$25,000 and \$50,000 in the United States, where most aspire to work.

They include former British army and air force officers who retired young, self-made businessmen, recent university graduates and plumbers.

"The ideal butler is a person who is really loyal, cares and anticipates everything that may happen. The bag is packed, there is always petrol in the car and extra food for unexpected guests," Spencer said.

Now yuppies — stock market brokers, computer experts and bankers — have discovered the joys of being served, he said.

"He works very hard and likes to show off his butler," Spencer said about the young urban professional who wants the better things in life. "It's a great status symbol."

A butler is also the in-thing

with American rock stars, who, he said, are not very well-educated and often rely on their servant to help them spell.

Spencer said butlers are now expected to do more than serve and supervise cleaning. They must know how to assume the duties of a personal secretary, organise foreign travel, hotel reservations, and insurance for expensive trinkets purchased abroad.

His or her work is almost never done.

The day begins with the butler ironing a "quality newspaper". The process not only ensures a crisp read but a clean one too, doing away with excess ink.

Then a bath or shower must be run and two sets of clothes laid out.

Breakfast follows and the butler then drives his employer to the office.

On to the shops before preparing for lunch or dinner.

"It's a long day," Spencer said. At the school, the prospective butlers are told they must bathe twice and brush their teeth six to seven times each day.

Dressed in well-pressed dark suits, the class of December 1987

included a 54-year-old Irish-born merchant marine steward, a 25-year-old Swede and two young Britons.

"I want to be a butler because for me it's the peak of the work I've been doing all my life," said the former steward, Martin Connolly.

Training for service also means learning how to bow.

Lining up his students, Spencer asked, "how do we bow to Mr. Jones?"

They answered with a curt neck bend.

"And a VIP bow for senator Jones?"

The class bowed from the waist.

"Don't look at the floor, look at the person. Be pleased to see him," Spencer instructed.

A lesson in serving food from a tray — "don't let your thumbs show" — taught the students how to deal with a dinner guest making a pig of himself.

"I'm not taking too much am I," asked instructor Donald Weedon, as he piled a mountain of salad on his plate.

"Certainly not sir," the student replied pleasantly. "The chef will be pleased."



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Reserve
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Table Wine

Kuwait expands investments in Spain

JUMBLE.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYID

RAMEK

USDABE

ZAH DAR

Answer here: A " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LEAFY HUSKY UPHELD PLAQUE

Answer: Why there were no more umbrellas—
THEY WERE ALL USED UP

FROM ALL THAT RUNNING IN THE UNDERWORLD YOU CAN EXPECT THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Contras call for talks with Sandinistas in Costa Rica

MIAMI (R) — Contra rebel leaders, apparently backing off vows not to talk anymore to Nicaragua leaders, have called for a ceasefire meeting with Sandinista officials to take place in Costa Rica.

The U.S.-backed rebel leaders had said they would hold no more talks with the Sandinista government until they first met separately with Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo.

But the Nicaraguan Resistance, the umbrella group for the contra rebels, issued a statement late on Thursday calling for direct talks with Sandinista officials "at the highest level" in Costa Rica under Cardinal Obando Y Bravo's mediation.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has refused to negotiate directly with the contras for an end to the six-year-old civil war and has instead sent an American lawyer and a West German politician to the mediated talks.

The cardinal tried to mediate a round of indirect talks in the Dominican Republic before Christmas but they broke down when the rebels refused to deal with Mr. Ortega's representatives.

Cardinal Obando Y Bravo was due to meet the contras on Friday

in Guatemala but cancelled the meeting because he said the Guatemalan government failed to grant him protection.

The contras blamed the cancellation on what they said was "persistent pressure" on Guatemala by the Sandinistas.

Mr. Ortega and four other Central American presidents are scheduled to meet in Costa Rica on Jan. 15 to discuss what progress has been made toward compliance with the regional peace accord they signed last August.

The rebel leaders said a meeting with Cardinal Obando Y Bravo was not expected to occur until after the Central American summit.

President Reagan's new national security advisor on Thursday met Honduran President Jose Azcona at the start of a trip to four Central American nations and said he offered U.S. help on regional peace efforts.

Colin Powell, on his first foreign trip since his November appointment, said he and Mr.

Azcona discussed the outlook for a summit next week in Costa Rica at which the five regional presidents are to assess the progress of a Central American peace plan.

"I came to see... what we can do to be helpful to make that (Costa Rican summit) a useful meeting and one that will further the process of peace in the region," Gen. Powell told reporters after meeting Mr. Azcona.

Mr. Reagan once described the Central American peace plan as "fatally flawed" but has since given it qualified backing. Gen. Powell gave no details of the help Washington might offer.

Powell, a three-star general, was expected to meet the presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica on Thursday and Friday as part of the regional tour.

Delegation officials declined to give other details, citing security reasons.

Gen. Powell said he would contact Mr. Azcona again through diplomatic channels before a February vote in the U.S. Congress over a request by the Reagan administration for further military aid for Nicaraguan contra rebels.

Sri Lankan rebels kill 5 Indian troops

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil separatist guerrillas killed five Indian soldiers by landmine and in gun attacks in northern Sri Lanka in the past 24 hours, an Indian official said on Friday.

In one attack, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas killed an Indian officer by opening fire at soldiers directing traffic in Jaffna town on Thursday.

An Indian High Commission official said three soldiers on a routine patrol died and two were wounded when their vehicle hit a landmine at Vavuniya town on Thursday.

A fifth Indian was killed when Tiger gunmen attacked an Indian military camp at Mullaitivu town on Thursday night.

The official said troops reacted by sealing off the area and launching a hunt for the attackers.

Up to 35,000 Indian troops have been posted in the north and east of the island to implement a peace accord aimed at ending a four-year-old campaign by the rebels to set up a separate state.

About 345 Indian soldiers and more than 1,200 Tamil rebels have been killed since the Indian force launched an offensive last October to disarm the Tigers, who have repudiated the pact.

Schoolchildren in the Jaffna peninsula are trapped in a power struggle between Tamil guerrillas and Indian peacekeeping troops, said Tamil travellers who reached Colombo on Friday.

"Since Monday, Indian troops have been visiting the homes of students and instructing them to go to school. They assure parents the children will be safe," one traveller said.

"Hours later, the Tamil Tigers visit the same homes and warn parents and children against going to school. We do not know what to do. Both sides are a threat," the traveller said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Indian troops have been trying to disarm the Tigers in an effort to end a guerrilla war that has claimed more than 8,000 lives in the past four years.

Attacks continue, despite India's declaration in October that its troops were in control of Jaffna town and parts of the surrounding Jaffna peninsula.

Actor Trevor Howard dies at 71

LONDON (R) — British actor Trevor Howard, famous for his portrayals of rugged, hard-living characters in films such as the Third Man, Mutiny on the Bounty and Odette, has died after a short illness, his agent announced. He was 71.

Howard, whose strong sense of humour matched his screen image as a hardened leader of men, trained in Shakespearean theatre but moved into the film industry where he made his name as in Mutiny on the Bounty, playing alongside Marlon Brando.

In the 1950s and 1960s he became one of Britain's best-known actors.

His wife Helen Cherry, whom he married in 1945, was with him when he died in his sleep in Bushey, Hertfordshire, on Thursday.

His agent, James Sharkey, said: "Trevor Howard died at around 2 p.m. this afternoon. He had been ill for about three weeks and had been in hospital for just over a fortnight."

"He died quite peacefully in his sleep. He had contracted influenza and bronchitis. At the end, his illness became complicated by jaundice."

He added: "Trevor will be remembered because he was a total gentleman and for his many famous roles."

Howard's rugged soldier image was born of first-hand experience in World War II when he made 22 parachute jumps and took part in airborne landings in Norway and Sicily, winning the military cross.

He was invalided out of the army in 1943 and returned to acting to begin his climb to become one of the stars of the world cinema.

Howard's brooding style was often likened to U.S. actor Spencer Tracy.

In the Third Man, adapted from a short story by Graham Greene about intrigue in post-World War II Vienna, he gave a typical performance as a suave but aggressive British officer on the trail of a drug trader operating from the Soviet sector of the occupied city.

Many hailed it as one of his greatest performances.



Trevor Howard

Howard was targeted by major film companies as soon as he finished his training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), Britain's top dramatic school, in London.

But he turned down a seven-year contract with Paramount to go on the stage. His earliest public performances were in Shakespeare festivals in London's West End.

After the upheaval of the war years, however, he turned almost exclusively to the cinema.

Howard was born on Sept. 29, 1916, the son of an English insurance salesman and a Canadian nurse.

Howard's private life was often turbulent and his heavy drinking landed him in prison in many parts of the world. The actor once told a British television interviewer he had been arrested in Italy, France and Austria for "enjoying myself."

"He was wonderful to work with. He loved his wine but that never interfered with his job," veteran British actor Sir John Mills said.

Actor Sir John Gielgud said: "He was a generous man and he had beautiful manners. He was also Bohemian and wild, which was fun. And he had no pretensions, which is rare in an actor."

Howard was said to have had several affairs during filming but was deeply in love with his wife, who remained loyal during their 42-year marriage.

He was also deeply attached to Britain, despite being taken to court by the Inland Revenue on tax matters, and said he could never live anywhere else. "One's roots are here, that's the thing, one's roots are here," he said.

Actress Dame Peggy Ashcroft, who appeared with Howard in several productions, praised him as "one of the most remarkable actors of our century."

Party set to dump 'Cicciolina'

ROME (R) — The bizarre relationship between Italy's porno queen turned politician, Ilona "Cicciolina" Staller, and her Radical Party appears to be on the rocky road to a quickie divorce. Six months after her election to parliament, the Radicals have become acutely embarrassed by the kind of publicity the outrageous sex star has brought them and seem determined to jilt her. Cicciolina (little cuddly one) stole much of the limelight during last June's general elections when the small Radical Party made her a candidate in a move typical of a group renowned for being unpredictable and provocative. But the Radical Party would now prefer to quietly forget Cicciolina and her "up with sexual energy" battle cry. When she announced her intention to run for election as Radical Party secretary this week, many senior members decided it was time to move away from Cicciolina. Cicciolina sat demurely on the platform bedecked in her usual crown of flowers as her fellow deputies harangued and insulted her and accused her of driving members away. "You've only attended three of the 33 meetings of the (parliamentary) Defence Committee and you were missing for 219 of the 268 votes in parliament," said senior party member Franco Rutelli.

'Molecule may block AIDS'

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (R) — A biotechnology company said laboratory experiments confirm that a molecule it developed is capable of blocking infection of key immune cells by the AIDS virus. In a joint statement with Massachusetts General Hospital, where a group of scientists is studying the molecule, Biogen NV, a biotechnology firm, said human clinical trials with it could begin this year. "I think this is one of the most promising developments in our quest for an effective antiviral therapy," the hospital's Dr. Martin Hirsch said in a statement. Research on the molecule was published in the latest issue of the British science journal Nature. The joint statement from Biogen and the hospital said the research indicates that the molecule has the potential "to halt the progress of HIV infection and the subsequent deterioration of the immune system." HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

2-headed baby in good condition

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Thirteen-year-old Siamese twin girls Laleh and Ladan have visited a two-headed baby boy in a Tehran hospital, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) has reported. In its second report on the baby since he was born on Dec. 23, the agency said he was in good condition. The child has two hearts and four lungs but its body looks normal apart from the two heads. The agency, whose latest report was monitored in Cyprus, gave no further details on the boy. It had said earlier that the 28-year-old mother was discharged from hospital in good condition. The Siamese Twins, who live in Karaj west of Tehran, were quoted by the agency as saying they were happy and were studying English in their spare time. The two girls are joined at the head and with existing techniques, surgery to separate them is not possible, the agency said. It did not give the girls' family name.

Thatcher is U.K.'s 'Woman of Century'

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Times praised Margaret Thatcher on Thursday for becoming the longest serving British prime minister of the century. "What's the secret, and the message for other democracies," the Times asked in an editorial headlined "Britain's Woman of the Century." "By example and precept, she offers a liberating feeling to millions of Britons shackled by a class system, bullying trade unions and an over protective welfare state," it said. "For ordinary people she offered hope of home ownership, the chance to pocket more money and, now, to have greater choice of schools," it added. Last Sunday, the Conservative leader broke Liberal Herbert Asquith's record of eight years and 243 days as premier.

Murderer executed in Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (R) — Robert Streetman, found guilty of murder in a burglary that netted him \$1, was executed on Thursday, the first execution in the United States this year. Streetman, 27, was found guilty of the December 1982 murder of Christine Baker, a 44-year-old Texas woman, during a burglary of her home. Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox said Streetman was put to death by lethal injection. Governor Bill Clements gave final approval for the execution following U.S. Supreme Court refusal to grant a stay. Nine inmates at the state prison in Huntsville, Texas, are scheduled to be executed in January. Mattox said. There are 266 inmates on Texas "death row," about an eighth of the U.S. total, he said.

China executes peasant pimp

PEKING (R) — China has executed a peasant pimp, a newspaper reaching Peking said. The Nanfang Daily said Liu Xinghai employed six women as prostitutes at his home in a village in Guangdong province in south China. The women were visited by 27 clients for more than 50 sex sessions between March and July last year. Liu collected an introduction fee and had sex with three of the women himself, the paper said.

Actor accused of offending aborigines

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — "Crocodile Dundee" star Paul Hogan was accused Wednesday of being offensive for referring to aborigines as "abos" during a live telecast beamed around the world on New Year's Day. Hogan said in introductory remarks to the four-hour "Australia Live — A Celebration of a Nation" that Australians would become so fed up with ongoing bicentennial celebrations "we might as well give the land back to the abos." Hogan, voted last year as Australia's most popular man, is known for his movie role as a crocodile hunter and for advertisements promoting tourism urging visitors to "throw a shrimp on the barbie." "People just have to learn in this country that the term 'abo' is offensive and they shouldn't use it when talking about aborigines," said Gary Foley, an aboriginal activist, who has vowed to disrupt the bicentennial, calling it a celebration of invasion. Aborigines, Australia's original inhabitants, number about 160,000 or 1 per cent of the 16 million population.

Underwater train stations to open

TOKYO (AP) — Passengers on trains travelling through the world's longest tunnel will be able to get off at two underwater stations to stretch their legs and relieve boredom, according to plans by the Hokkaido Japan Railway Co. The world's first underwater train stations have no exits but will be listed on train schedules when service through the 53.8-kilometre Seikan Tunnel begins on March 13, railroad official Yasuoki Watanuki said Wednesday. "Since there's no scenery to watch while travelling through the tunnel, we were worried that passengers would become bored," he said. Exhibits explaining the tunnel's construction, which took 24 years, are planned for the two stations, Watanuki said. The tunnel links the Japanese islands of Hokkaido and Honshu.

Delhi orders offensive against Tripura rebels

AGARTALA, India (Agencies) — India will send 12 battalions to the north east state of Tripura to crush tribal rebels who have killed 2,000 people in the last decade, the state's police chief said on Thursday.

Nine people have been killed in the past two weeks by the Tripura National Volunteers, fighting to expel non-tribal immigrants from their remote hill state sandwiched between Bangladesh and Burma.

Police Director General R.P. Sharma said the 10 paramilitary and two army battalions would be the most powerful force ever

fielded against the 300 or so rebels.

If fully staffed, the battalions could total up to 10,000 men but Mr. Sharma gave no figures.

The offensive was decided on after talks between Home Minister Buta Singh and Tripura Chief Minister Nripen Chakraborty, who heads one of India's three Marxist-led state governments.

Meanwhile Janaki Ramachandran succeeded her late husband, Mardur Gopalan Ramachandran, as chief minister of Tamil Nadu state Thursday, the United Nations of India (UNI) reported.

Chirac hopes Berlin Wall will fall

PARIS (AP) — Premier Jacques Chirac met with East German leader Erich Honecker on the second day of his official visit Friday and said he hoped that one day the Berlin Wall would fall.

"The wall which has torn it (Europe), and which, I hope, will fall one day as the useless and desirous fortified cities of earlier times have fallen, reminds us that the division of our continent is not a simple concept, but a painful reality," Mr. Chirac said.

He stressed that peace is not simple a matter of counting missiles and troops, but "is born of the will to knock down barriers, to multiply contacts and increase exchanges."

Mr. Honecker did not refer to Mr. Chirac's remarks about the wall, saying only that he hoped his talks here would contribute to the "prevention of a nuclear cataclysm, to the future development of constructive and peaceful cooperation in the common house of Europe."

Mr. Honecker began his day by meeting Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond, who went to the Hotel De Marigny, the official guest residence across the street from the presidential palace. The discussions covered disarmament in Europe and bilateral issues.

Caricom rejects sanction against Haiti

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — Haitian opposition leaders have said they were disappointed that the heads of seven Caribbean nations refused to impose sanctions against the military-led junta in their country.

One prominent Haitian politician accused the United States of pressuring the Caribbean leaders to tone down their criticism of the Haitian junta led by Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy. The junta has ruled since dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier fled the country Feb. 7, 1986.

The Caribbean leaders met Wednesday to discuss the situation in Haiti following violence that led to the cancellation of national elections on Nov. 29. At least 34 people were killed and 76 wounded in attacks on polling places.

In Haiti, meanwhile, the junta has forged ahead with plans for elections rescheduled for Jan. 17, despite a threatened boycott by opposition leaders.

The heads of state from Caricom, or the Caribbean Community and Common Market, had considered asking Gen. Namphy to postpone the election. They also discussed withholding diplomatic recognition from any government that came to power as a result of a junta-run election.

Both proposals were rejected, as was a request by a six-member Haitian delegation that a trade embargo be imposed on their impoverished nation.

Reagan names general to arms control post

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has nominated army Major General William Burns to be the new head of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater has said.

"He is an outstanding candidate and we are confident he will be confirmed" by the Senate, Mr. Fitzwater said.

If confirmed, Gen. Burns would succeed Kenneth Adel-

man, who quit as ACDA director on Dec. 12 to become a national syndicated columnist writing on foreign affairs.

Gen. Burns is currently a deputy assistant secretary of state for arms control and has wide experience in arms negotiations.

From 1981-84, and again from 1985-86, he was the representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Geneva intermediate nuclear forces (INF) negotiations.

Those talks culminated in the signing of an INF treaty at last month's Washington summit between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that will eliminate superpower nuclear missiles with ranges of 300 to 3,400 miles (500 to 5,500 km).

The two countries want to forge ahead with talks on long-range weapons so that a treaty halving superpower arsenals of those missiles can be ready for signature at another summit, expected to take place in Moscow.

The four-hour operation said police did not use tear gas or water cannons. They said police were relatively restrained in taking control of the campus.

The main problem came when students set fire to the main administration building. Firefighters brought the blaze under control after two hours.

Dissident students started the campus occupation to demand the resignation of Park Chul-Woong, the private university's president and founder. The students accused Mr. Park of being a despot at the school, which has an enrollment of 15,000.

Police end protest by S. Korean students

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — About 1,500 riot police stormed Chosun University in the southwestern city of Kwangju on Friday, ending a 113-day protest by students demanding the dismissal of the school administration.

More than 200 students set fire to the main university building and hurled firebombs at police in green combat fatigues and black steel helmets who smashed doors and climbed ladders into buildings in the dawn raid.

Classes had been suspended at the school since September because of the protest by a small group of radical students demanding the removal of the school

president and members of his family from the administration.

Three students were injured, including one who jumped from the fifth floor of the main building as police closed in. The student landed on one of the mattresses that police had placed on the ground as a precaution against suicide, which is a traditional form of protest in Korea.

Police arrested about 120 students. Many protesters fled as riot squads gained control of the campus, while others tried to hold police off by building barricades with desks and chairs.

Local journalists who watched

Filipino rebels to widen attacks on Americans

MANILA (Agencies) — Philippine Communist rebels said on Friday they would widen attacks on Americans in 1988.

The Communist Party newspaper Ang Bayan described the killing of three Americans outside the U.S. Clark Air Base last October as a "correct and timely response to heightened and more direct imperialist intervention in the country's internal affairs."

It said the party's military arm, the New People's Army (NPA), had gained the past year and would seek new links with overseas leftist groups.

"Targets of NPA operations have been redefined to include... U.S. imperialist advisers, troops, agents and business empires... civilian officials and personnel directly involved in the U.S.-designed Aquino-implemented counter-revolutionary campaign," the party publication

said.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos said in a television interview on Thursday night that the insurgency in 1986 and 1987 had been less violent than in previous years.

He said just over 3,700 people died in fighting in 1987, which meant a daily average of 4.6 rebels, three troops and 2.6 civilians. He did not give figures for earlier years.

The trend showed the military had the upper hand, Gen. Ramos said, adding: "This is a very favourable trend for the government and we hope this will continue for 1988."

Ang Bayan said new company-sized rebel formations and better ammunition had allowed the guerrillas to carry out a series of attacks over the last year on town halls, police and military posts and private businesses.

It said the rebel presence in urban centres had been increased, with about 15 per cent of the party's members now based in cities.

The military says small Communist assassination teams gunned down more than a hundred policemen and soldiers on the streets of Manila in 1987. The NPA claimed responsibility for half of those killings.

The Communist organ said the size of its military forces had remained steady in the central and southern parts of the archipelago but had grown on the northern main island of Luzon, where the capital is located.

It said the number of guerrillas, sympathisers and those influenced by rebel presence had increased six-fold in Luzon over the past three years.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKS ♠AJ10732 ♠QJ3
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A—If you trust partner, he cannot have any useful holding in diamonds. Thus, while you might have had thoughts of slam once partner opened the bidding, the misfit is obvious and three no trump is likely to be as good as a spot as any Pass.
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ6S ♠8 ♠AK10632 ♠AQ
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A—There is no scientific solution to this problem—point count won't help you. Partner might have nothing other than four low spades. However, if he has a five-card suit, or even the queen, it might be enough for game. We would gamble on four spades.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠6 ♠AQ84 ♠A73 ♠AK10542
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A—Partner sounds like a broken record. He must have six very good spades, or perhaps a seven-card suit. The one bid you shouldn't make is three no trump—if partner has a broken suit, the defenders might get five tricks before you can establish nine. Our vote goes to
- four spades, even though you have only a singleton.
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A10S ♠A882 ♠KQ7 ♠J4S
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
A—With a flat 14 points, you have more than enough to assure game but not enough for slam. In addition, it would be a mistake to probe for a 4-4 heart fit since you do not have a ruffing value. Simply raise to three no trump.
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ84 ♠7 ♠AJ102 ♠K93
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A—Regardless of the methods you are using, you should bid three clubs. Partner has now been advised that you have five spades, four diamonds and three clubs, and hence a singleton heart. How comforting it is to be able to convey such a mine of information with one bid.
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A77S ♠1092 ♠Q83 ♠632
Your partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two diamonds. What do you respond?
A—Normally, you need at least an ace and a king for a positive response to your partner's forcing two-bid. Here, however, we feel your queen in partner's suit should be upgraded. We attach so much importance to confirming a fit as early as possible, that we would opt for three diamonds.